



Oldham
Council

Report to COUNCIL – 13th March 2024

Cabinet Report of Neighbourhoods Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Chris Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

This report provides an update on the main activity since the last Council meeting relating to portfolio responsibilities.

Hate Crime - The Council commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day on Friday 26 January 2024. Presentations were delivered by Leah Burman, a member of the Northern Holocaust Education Group, as well as Oldham Youth Council and Oldham Theatre Workshop. Oldham also participated in Greater Manchester's Hate Crime Awareness week in February 2024. The Sophie Lancaster Foundation delivered a hate crime 'train the trainer' session, which was attended by 21 secondary school teachers. The training covers the five hate crime strands and has been expanded to also include misogyny. In addition, three 'Understanding Islam and Muslim Culture' sessions were delivered to help combat Islamophobia – these sessions were targeted at staff working in schools, housing associations and the voluntary, community and faith sector.

Prevent - The Council has updated its policy and procedures for safeguarding people at risk of being drawn into terrorism, or extremism leading to terrorism. This is to reflect the publication of the revised Prevent and Channel Duty Guidance, which came into effect in December 2023. The policy and procedures, which are available on the Council's website, are designed to provide a clear framework to respond to safeguarding concerns for those children, young people and adults who may be at risk of being drawn into terrorism, or extremism leading to terrorism.

Community Safety Services - The District Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) consultation exercise is now live and over 9,000 direct contacts to residents and businesses have been made. The proposals are also available on the Council's website. The PSPO for Oldham Town Centre (Restriction on the Consumption of Alcohol) and Crompton Moor PSPO consultations are also live on the website. The consultation exercises close on the 17th of March 2024.

A new Water Safety Partnership has been introduced in Oldham, and this will be chaired by the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods. The Partnership includes representatives from the statutory services as well as the private sector. Work is now ongoing to map and risk assess all of the open water spaces across the borough. Key messages on water safety are also being developed to be delivered through schools and colleges as Spring approaches.

Public Protection - In 2023, Oldham Council took the decision to provide free pest control for all residents to deal with the growing public health risk related pest/rodents. Since introduction of the free service, and necessary investment in the team, pest control officers

have responded to the following:

- Over 1,300 reports of rats/mice and other rodents
- Over 80 reports of bed bugs
- Over 70 reports of cockroaches

Requests for all treatments listed above have more than doubled since 2022, and all relate to problems inside properties – by dealing with these problems, the Council is ensuring that properties are pest free and suitable for families and individuals. Linked to this, and in order to address the source of the problem, we are also working with United Utilities to increase sewer baiting and this programme will continue moving forward.

Highways & Winter Maintenance - The region faced significant storm events as well as a number of snow, ice and cold weather periods over the last few months. Highways Operations and Winter Maintenance teams have ensured that roads have been kept clear from snow, ice, falling objects and trees. Since the middle of December, winter operations have:

- Travelled almost 13,000 miles
- Grittied almost 9,000 miles of road network, and
- Used over 1,100 tonnes of salt
- Coordinated response to dozens of fallen trees to clear obstructions and remove hazards
- Building Control inspectors have visited a number of sites where structures have been damaged to secure the sites and make the areas safe

Furthermore, to improve communication for road users, new snow warning signs will be installed across the borough – these will allow remote switch on for updates of road closures due to adverse weather conditions, thus improving communication for all residents and road users.

In addition, since April 2023, the council has invested over £5m maintaining the road network and highways infrastructure.

Waste Management - The service continues to collect waste from almost 100,000 properties and over 1,900 businesses in the borough. To ensure minimal disruption to residents/businesses over the Christmas period, the Service rescheduled collections for residents that would typically have their bins collected on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Work also continues to support residents with recycling through the delivery of bins, providing advice and guidance, and where necessary, enforcement – this ensures the correct waste is placed in the right bins – meaning more can be recycled and fewer contaminated bins.

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.